



**ARIZONA READY EDUCATION COUNCIL
K-20 EDUCATION FUNDING TASKFORCE**

May 1st, 2012 @ 3:00 pm

1700 W. Washington

Governor's 2nd Floor Conference Room

Phoenix, AZ 85007

Meeting Notes

Members Present: Dr. Craig Barrett, Jaime Molera, Dr. Michael Kearns (telephonic), Colleen Niccum, Tim Carter, Susan Carlson, Chuck Essigs, Alan Maguire, and Doreen Zannis.

Members Absent: Dr. Tom Anderes, Onnie Shekerjian, Jay Kaprosy, Hugh Hallman, and Stacey Morley

Staff: Rebecca Gau, Debra Raeder-Gay, and Dale Frost

1. Call to Order, Welcome & Introductions

Dr. Barrett called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m., provided welcoming remarks and reviewed the purpose of this meeting to:

- Verify current conditions for reform;
- Review and approve a framework for initiating funding reform; and
- Begin to identify possible solutions.

Dr. Barrett emphasized that the taskforce needed to determine: near term goals; whether legislation would be needed to provide funding controls in order to ensure systemic reforms; as well as how to incentivize academic achievement.

2. Review & Discussion: K-12 Funding System

After extensive discussion, the taskforce agreed that the current K-12 funding system is:

- Antiquated, inequitable and complex
- That the taskforce will focus on allocation (rather than revenue)
- That the funding structure must support and drive the new reforms:
 - Common Core State Standards
 - PARCC Assessment
 - Teacher/Principal Evaluation System; and
 - The accountability system (A-F school labels)
- That a functional data system is imperative
- That an analysis needed to be completed of the funding tax initiative to determine the flexibility for performance/achievement incentives.

The taskforce also reached consensus that the funding system needed to be understandable and equitable and that the ABEC Model serve as the framework for moving forward.

3. Review & Discussion: NGA Policy Academy Reallocating Resources for High Academic Performance

Debra Raeder-Gay reported that Arizona had been selected as one of four states for the NGA Policy Academy Reallocating Resources for High Academic Performance. The next meeting of the taskforce will include a visit from NGA staff to discuss next steps.

4. Taskforce Comments & Next steps

Dr. Barrett reviewed next steps:

- Analyze the education funding tax initiative
- Cost out ABEC funding model (assuming no new funds)
- Review successful evidenced based funding models
 - Wyoming
 - Arkansas
 - Indiana
- Develop set of incentives that will go “above” baseline funding and drive student achievement

5. Call to the Public

Mitzi Epstein addressed the taskforce stating that complexity alone is not a problem; that the taskforce’s short-term goal might be to ask for a legislative special session to find funding for the data system; and that innovative thinking in delivery reform could drive student achievement.

6. Adjourn

Dr. Barrett indicated that the next meeting of the Taskforce would be on Thursday, June 7, 2012, from 7:30-9:30 am. With no further business before the Taskforce, Dr. Barrett adjourned the meeting at 5:00 p.m.